

*Minutes*  
**SELECT BOARD**  
Monday, May 21, 2018 6:00 p.m.  
Town Office, 32 Main Street

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*Select Board members present:* John O'Rourke, Chair; Bob Armstrong; Philip Kantor

*Others present:* Alyssa Tan, FCAT; Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the Town Administrator

John O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed Phil Kantor to the Select Board.

*Minutes*

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the minutes of Monday, May 14, 2018, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor, Phil abstained.**

*Meetings Attended by Select Board Members*

Phil Kantor attended the school committee meeting; the Superintendent has resigned effective June 30<sup>th</sup>. Bob Armstrong attended an FCAT meeting, where they talked about some of the challenges of recording local Town Meetings. Armstrong invited all eight of the candidates for Rep. Kulik's seat to his home; seven of them came, and they had an "okay" crowd. On Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. there will be a forum at Frontier Regional High School concerning climate change. John O'Rourke attended the Massachusetts Selectman's Association regional meeting with Cannabis Control Commission representative. It's a morass of regulations; still on schedule, though. O'Rourke also went to a Franklin County Chamber of Commerce luncheon where Secretary Jay Ash was in attendance. They talked about economic development needs in western Massachusetts. O'Rourke also was invited to participate in the USS Constitution turn-around cruise, followed by a commemoration for Viet Nam veterans.

*Public Comments*

*None.*

**Old Business**

**New Business**

*Organization of the Select Board: Elect Chair and Clerk*

Bob Armstrong nominated John O'Rourke for Chair; O'Rourke nominated Phil Kantor for Clerk.

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to accept nominations for Chair and Clerk of the Select Board, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Regional representatives*

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to appoint to the Frontier Community Access Television, for a term ending 6/30/19, Armstrong as representative from the Broadband Committee, seconded by Kantor, O'Rourke and Kantor voted in favor, Armstrong abstained.**
- **On a motion from Armstrong to appoint O'Rourke to the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services District, for a term ending 6/30/19, seconded by Kantor, Armstrong and Kantor voted in favor, O'Rourke abstained.**
- **On a motion from O'Rourke to appoint Armstrong to the Greater Franklin Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Advisory Committee, for a term ending 6/30/19, seconded by Kantor, O'Rourke and Kantor voted in favor, Armstrong abstained.**
- **On a motion from O'Rourke to appoint Armstrong to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority, for a term ending 6/30/19, seconded by Kantor, O'Rourke and Kantor voted in favor, Armstrong abstained.**

*Meeting schedule*

John O'Rourke explained the need for biweekly Select Board meetings to sign warrants; after the May 29<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting, though, O'Rourke proposed every two weeks until budget season, unless the Town Administrator or he calls an interim meeting. There was no objection.

*Insurance: accept offer for Police and Fire injured-on-duty insurance*

The Police and Fire injured-on-duty contract from Cabot Risk Strategies is close to the same as last year, stated Tom Hutcheson.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the offer for Police and Fire injured-on-duty insurance, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Sign annual permission for the FRCOG to contract for Highway products and services on behalf of the Town*  
O'Rourke stated that this contract is pro forma which is done every year; they do an excellent job.

- **On a motion by John O'Rourke to sign the annual permission for the FRCOG to contract for Highway products and services, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Proposed revision to retiree benefits: formally allowing surviving spouses access to the Town's retiree plan*  
Hutcheson noted that Treasurer Jan Warner is proposing formalizing a current practice; it's been an informal policy up to now.

- **On a motion by John O'Rourke to approve retiree health insurance plan as amended, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Renew regional kennel agreement with Franklin County Sheriff's Office*

O'Rourke explained that Conway has participated in this for many years.

- **On a motion by John O'Rourke to approve the agreement with Franklin County Sheriff's Office, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Item Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting*                      *None.*

*Town Administrator update*

**Committees**

The State has noted that the work the Energy Committee has done under the original contract for the Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grant has shifted so much as a result of the early work done (and the change from SREC-2 to SMART) that they should submit a new grant rather than asking that the current contract be extended.

As the Assessors need to add a computer for the software conversion, and the Town Hall electrical system is at capacity, we need to do some electrical work and upgrade what we have. This will not be very extensive, but it will be a substantial expense, so I'm working with Peter Martin and Ron Sweet (as building maintenance manager) to come up with a financially workable plan.

I understand from Ken Ouimette that we have two possible candidates for the Garage Committee. He is going to let me know how he would prefer to proceed.

The Planning Board will discuss how they intend to move forward regarding the marijuana by-law at their next meeting, which is on June 7. Since the article to extend the moratorium failed, I assume we'll be planning for a special Town Meeting in the Fall, or at least prior to December 31, in order to get the planning by-law on the books.

I have a list of items for consideration by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. I'd like your input on it and without objection will put it on the next agenda.

**Departments**

Chief Ouimette has been planning to arrange a trade-in for Chief Baker's vehicle when he gets his new cruiser. As I recall, Town Meeting did not amend this motion to require a trade-in, and the Highway Superintendent has

indicated interest in getting some more use out of the vehicle, so I have directed him to Chief Ouimette for further conversation.

I reached out to our Emergency Management Director this past Tuesday regarding the tornado watch, asking if he was considering a reverse 9-1-1 call. He had been tracking the weather as well, and he agreed it was a close call but not to activate the system. After that, the probability of damage lessened, so there was no need for any further communication. We received two calls from residents who thought we should have put out an alert, which I think we would have done if there was a tornado warning.

The Town was required to notify the state within 48 hours of a vote to change local taxes, so I arranged that with the Town Clerk as a result of the vote at Town Meeting for the tax on retail marijuana.

We received today a draft contract for electricity aggregation. I will put it on the next agenda.

*Concerns of the Selectmen*                      *None.*

Phil Kantor noted that the Frontier Bonding Building Committee is searching for another Select Board representative now that Robert Baker's term has ended; Kantor is already on it as the school committee representative. Bob Armstrong will take over as the Select Board representative on the committee.

*Mail*    *None.*

*Announcements*                                  *None.*

*Next Meeting*    Scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

*Executive Session*

Reason Number 6, to consider the purchase of real property, if the chair declares an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the Town's negotiating position.

- **At 6:39 p.m., on a motion from John O'Rourke to open Executive Session, to be held under Reason #6, to consider the purchase of real property, if the chair declares an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the Town's negotiating position, then to adjourn immediately from open session, John O'Rourke declared it so and voted in favor, Bob Armstrong voted in favor, and Phil Kantor voted in favor.**